

Vaughan, W

Secretary, McGill University

Feb 1915
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MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL.

SECRETARY AND BURSAR'S OFFICE.

February 9th, 1915.

C O P Y .

J. W. Johnson, Esq., M.P.P.
Belleville,
Ont.

Dear Sir,

I have your letter of yesterday's date and take pleasure in giving you the information you ask.

(a) The total of McGill's endowment is \$8,312,121, and the approximate value of buildings and equipment given is \$5,671,952. These figures include Macdonald College at Ste Anne de Bellevue, which is a part of the University and which has a specific endowment of \$3,023,896, and its buildings and equipment may be taken at \$2,783,604

(b) The income derived from the endowment last year was \$387,686.

(c) It would be absolutely incorrect to state that the bulk of the fund has been gathered through the efforts of the friends of the University, the graduates and staff, and the present and former principals. A very small proportion of the endowment fund was obtained during the incumbency of the former principal, and the amount gathered by the efforts of the graduates and the staff of the University has been conspicuously small. We are indebted for the extent of our buildings, equipment and endowment chiefly to a few individual citizens of Montreal, most notably Sir William Macdonald, who has contributed in lands, buildings and money, inclusive of Macdonald College, between eight millions and nine millions of dollars. We are also largely

indebted, amongst others, to the late Lord Strathcona, and the figures given above for the endowment fund do not include a sum of about \$880,000 due from his estate for the endowment of our Women's Residence.

I hope you will not think me presumptuous if I express the opinion that the establishment of Toronto University must be regarded from an entirely different point of view from that of McGill University. We are holding the fort, as it were, for the English speaking and Protestant minority in the French Canadian Province, and if it had not been for the generosity of a few citizens of Montreal, McGill would not be in existence today as a University. In spite of the great gifts we have had, we are very far behind Toronto University in many respects. With the exception of Macdonald College, and new medical and engineering buildings, to replace buildings destroyed by fire, we have been without additions to our buildings for fifteen years, and are sadly in need of money for urgent development purposes.

The University of Toronto has shown remarkable development during the last few years, and I do not see how it could have been possible to avoid annual deficits in view of the tremendous increases which have taken place in the number of students in attendance. Toronto University has become one of the largest universities in the British Empire, and is surely the Institution above all others in Ontario of which the people of that province may be proud.

The Province of Ontario having, as I think very properly, undertaken the support of the University as a great provincial

J. W. J. -3.

institution, it cannot be expected that many private individuals will make contributions to it - because of the natural indisposition of individuals to assume privately a burden which they feel should fall upon and be distributed over the whole community. And it must not be forgotten that by devoting so large a share of the Succession Duties collected in Ontario to the maintenance of Toronto University, the fortunes of your wealthy citizens are in effect taxed for its support.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) W. Vaughan,

Secretary.

COPY.

ONTARIO
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Belleville, Ont, Feb. 8, 1915.

Registrar,

McGill University,

Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir,

I beg respectfully to request the following information.

(a) What is the total sum of McGill's endowment and, approximately, the value of buildings and equipment donated?

(b) How much income is derived from the endowment?

(c) Am I right in stating that the bulk of the fund was gathered through the efforts of the friends of the University, the graduates and the staff, notably the present and former principals?

I am a member of the Ontario Legislature and desire this information in view of the constant demands of Toronto University upon the Legislature to make up deficits.

Thanking you in advance for the information which I hope to receive this week,

I am,

Mine faithfully,

(Sgd.) J.W. Johnson,

M.P.P.

February 18th, 1915

W. Vaughan, Esq.,

Secretary, McGill University,

Montreal.

Dear Mr. Vaughan:

I have just received your letter with the enclosure of a copy of your reply to Mr. Johnson. It was extremely generous of you to write as you did to Mr. Johnson. I could not have made a better appeal myself for the University within these limits, and coming from a sister institution it makes the case all the stronger. After all, as I have often said, the success of one institution is bound up with that of the other, and I used to say when you had your campaign about two years ago that the successful carrying through would be for our advantage.

The gifts of Sir William Macdonald have been princely. I did not know that he had given between eight and nine millions of dollars. It has indeed been fortunate that in her time of need McGill had such a benefactor. The difficulties of Universities not supported by the State are always more serious than those which may rely on public support, because in the last resort deficits must be met by the public when they have been incurred for the public good.

Mr. Moure sent you a copy of our annual report, which I hope you have received. With kind regards and many thanks, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.